THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. However, the 39th Session of the Indian Labour Conference was held on 16-18 October, 2003.

(a) and (c) Do not arise.

Late Night Shifts for Women

4560. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
DR. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed women to work in late night shifts, especially in the apparel sector to face stiff competition from China;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are going to amend the Factories Act for this purpose,

(c) what occupational safety and protection of their dignity are going to be provided to women;

(d) whether any action plan has been prepared for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) On the demands of the Women's Organizations and in tune with the needs of the present economic globalization it has been decided to amend Section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948 to allow employment of women workers between 7.00 P.M. and 6.00 A.M. in the factories. This flexibility will be available to all manufacturing units, including units in the apparel sector.

(c) The amendment would inter-alia provide that the occupier has to ensure occupational safety and adequate protection of the women workers so employed by him.

(d) and (e) The State Government or any person authorized by them would be allowing employment of women during night only after consulting

the workers or representative organization of such workers and concerned employer or the representative organization of such employers. The State Government may also frame their own rules for allowing such permissions.

Exploitation of Child Labours by circus companies

†4561. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken in order to check hard labourious and dangerous types of shows by minor children in various circus companies of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken;

(c) whether it is a fact that minor children are purchased from very poor families and some of the them are brought on nominal wages; and

(d) if so, the details of the action being taken by Government to protect them from exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Government is committed for elimination of child labour in all occupations starting from children working in hazardous occupations/processes. All out efforts are being made to withdraw children working in hazardous occupations and processes for their rehabilitation. The erring employers are being prosecuted as per the law. The State Governments are the appropriate Government for the implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. Sufficient deterrent provisions have already been made in the said Act for persons violating the provisions of the Act. In order to eliminate child labour in all forms, Government has formulated a National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme. Under the Scheme, the working children are withdrawn from work and put into special schools with the objective to mainstream them into formal system of education. The Scheme, which was initially started in 1988 with 12 districts in the country, has been expanded to cover 250 districts across 21 States during the Tenth Plan.

(c) No such instances have been reported.

(d) Does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.